

29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents

On Monday all the staff had some very useful training about effective speech and communication. The importance of listening while someone is talking can never be overestimated – we have two ears and one mouth for a reason! All the staff learnt useful strategies to support children with their learning.

You may have seen the news this week raising concerns about children's attendance at school. I am very pleased that ours has returned to pre-Covid levels. Today we are at 96.84%, which I hope we can sustain – as every day in class counts!

**Assemblies** – At Tuesday's assembly, I spoke to all the children about the Gospel reading from Sunday which had been a parable which taught us about the generosity of God. I was also delighted to announce our new Year 6 monitors. The Year 6 children had written fantastic letters of application and then went through an interview process with me. Various monitoring roles they have been offered are: chairs & benches for assemblies, recycling, library, pond, wet-play, infant play leader, music, cloakroom & PE cupboard. Congratulations to all those children who showed initiative, relevant skills and confidence through this process.

On Wednesday at Junior assembly, Mr Rose celebrated European languages day. The children explored and discussed the value of learning languages and even learnt some new phrases. Some children showcased their linguistic diversity by starring in a short film celebrating languages in our school. Furthermore, they discussed the importance of body language and that brail and sign language were rightly promoted alongside traditional languages. Ask your child if they can say 'hello' in another language this weekend!

**Playtimes** – Earlier this week a survey was text to parents regarding playtimes. We are due to have training about OPAL (outdoor play and learning) next Wednesday and really want your views. Children are also being asked during school time. Please take a minute to complete this survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CY29ZMF>

**Creation Competition** -The North London Catenians are running a "Creation" competition, "*Let us dream....What would you like to tell the world?*" Be creative with your thoughts. Entries could be writing, poetry, drawing, painting, collage or sculpture and must be sent to Anna McMullan in the Church office by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October. For more information click the link <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:eu:17397a16-cd2d-4ee4-a614-764cbdda9654> *Winners announced at Mass of Creation 10.30am on Sunday 8th October*

**Building Fund** – Every academic year, as a Voluntary Aided school we invite parents to make a voluntary contribution of £45 per family. This money goes towards the 10% we are required to pay for any building works over £2,000. This is only relevant to Voluntary Aided schools – other schools get 100% of the funding. If you are able to make the payment (or part payment), you will find it on ParentPay. Many thanks in anticipation of your usual generosity which enables us to afford capital works.

**Code of Conduct for Sporting Events** – We have some sporting events starting next week. Please read the Code of Conduct for pupils and parents which we have adopted from Enfield Council. Many thanks

**Macmillan Coffee morning** – Just over £300 was raised today at our coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer. A big thank you to all parents who made/donated cakes/biscuits and those who attended today and gave so generously. We all know someone who has or has had cancer and so it's a worthwhile cause.

#### **Diary Dates**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct – Month of the Holy Rosary** – we pray a decade of the Rosary at 8.50am outside the front of the school – all welcome to join

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct – School closed for an Inset day** (OPAL – outdoor play and learning training)

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct – Harvest Festival celebration in school** – Children are invited to bring in £1 (or more if you wish) to give to St Monica's Church foodbank which gives food freely to families in need on Mondays.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct – Flu vaccine in school.** Parents must have responded to give consent by **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** (see separate email sent today)

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm – Friends Quiz Night** – info emailed previously – get your team together!

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 7pm – Literacy meeting for Reception parents**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 9.15am – repeat of Literacy meeting for Reception parents**

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste, Headteacher